



October 2026

From the Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Hye-Eun Chon

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Hye-Eun Chon

Church Office: 815-943-5422

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Pastor's phone:

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Pastor's email:

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

Church Website

www.firstumcharvard.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

for all ages

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Our Vision

We are a church for all people of Christ through our love and service.

Our Mission Statement

We are the followers of Jesus Christ coming together at the living body of Christ, allowing God to work in us, with us and through us for His purpose.

Fall is like a good teacher that uses nature to teach us about life. While spring brings forth new life and summer fills the world with vibrant green, fall invites us to pause for a moment and reflect on ourselves.

This is a time to pause our hurried steps and look toward God. It is a moment to set aside the urge to rush ahead and instead ask ourselves whether the path that we are currently walking is the right one.

Prayer is not merely a time to ask and obtain more from God. It is a time to give thanks for the past, reflect on the journey we have walked, and quietly ask the Lord how we should walk the days that lie ahead.

The moment we realize that time is not infinite, we finally come to understand how precious today is and how cherished and valuable the people beside us are. Fall is a season to seek and pray for the strength to love those who are difficult to love and to forgive those who are hard to forgive, empowered by the love of Jesus, who laid down His life on the cross for us.

Above all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the members of the First UMC of Harvard. I pray that this beautiful season brings an abundant harvest of fruit to the efforts of those who serve the church with dedication, those who share love while serving the community, and all those who offer tearful prayers for the church from behind the scenes.

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October Highlights



October Meetings

10/5	7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting
10/12	7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
10/26	7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting



October Ushers



Mark Dion
Ken Pedersen

October Counters

Mark Dion
Melissa Oerkfitz



Senior Fellowship



October 6th and
October 20th
at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming SPECIAL DATES -

October 4th- **World Communion Sunday** ... we

remember that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture.

October 18th- **Laity Sunday**... celebrates the ministry, leadership, service, and faithfulness of all lay Christians rather than just ordained than just ordained clergy.

Liturgists... Are Needed

Please consider being the person who reads the Call to Worship and readings. You will be sent the information prior to service. Sign-up on the sheet in the entryway or contact the office

Women's Bible Study



Every Wednesday at the home of Sharon Klingstedt
October 7th, 14th,
21st and 28th at 1:00 p.m.

Community Trunk or Treat

will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 11:00-2:00 p.m. at Harvard Moose Lodge. Sue Smith has offered her "trunk" to decorate for the event! We will begin our "candy collection" October 1st - Please bring your

donation of

individually wrapped candy to church on

Sunday or during office hours (M-Th 9:am-12:30pm). If you would like to help in any way with this event, contact Sue Smith or the church office! Thank you!



Handbell Choir

Please join us on
October 5th, 12th,
19th and 26th at
4:00 p.m.
All are welcome!



Church Charge Conference

is scheduled for November 8th @ 10:00am and is an opportunity for all of us to come together and discuss all aspects of our body in Christ. Please plan to attend.

Help Stock Our Free Little Pantry

Please consider donating non-perishable food items to help keep our pantry stocked for those in our community who may need a little extra help. Some ideas: canned goods, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter, rice, boxed meals or any shelf-stable foods. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously and keeps our pantry going! We're so grateful to those who donate, monitor and keep the pantry stocked every day!

Historic Oak Tree Dedication

Sunday, October 4th 2:00 P.M.

*presented by Greater Harvard Area Historical Society and
First United Methodist Church, 1100 N. Division Street*

For over 300 years, the large oak tree in front of the First United Methodist Church has shaded and sheltered the community. Its service will be recognized in a special tree dedication to be held at the church. This event is free and registration is not required. In case of rain, the dedication will be held in the church.

Featured presenters include: William Buchholtz, UMC Native American Ministry
Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock, UMC Native American Ministry
Arborist Shawn Kingzette



"SISTERHOOD" Women's Retreat

"Be Together, Feel Together, Heal Together, Rise Together"

October 24, 2026 @ 9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Check-in begins @ 8:30am)

Register by visiting fumcbelvidere.org or by calling the church office at (815) 544-3479. Cost is \$5.00. Retreat will be held at Belvidere First United Methodist Church - 610 Bonus Avenue in Belvidere, IL 61008



More information (flyer and registration form) is available on the table in the entryway